

*[English]***ITC**

2835. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total loss incurred by ITC and loss on account of large arrears of excise duty payable by ITC;
- (b) the names of persons responsible for the loss and the action taken by the financial institutions in this regards; and
- (c) the action taken also by the Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]***Tannery Industry**

2836. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Tannery industry units functioning in the country, state-wise;
- (b) the number of workers engaged in the said industry;
- (c) whether the facilities, such as Provident Fund, Insurance, Accommodation, Education, etc. are available to these workers;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the workers of such industry are affected by some disease;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government for taking proper health care of the workers;
- (g) whether water treatment plant has been installed in each industry; and
- (h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (h) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Import of R.O.B.**

2837. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the replies given to USQ Nos. 4430 and 5043 on 20.12.96 and 7.5.97 respectively and state:

- (a) whether the requisite information has since been collected;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) if not, the reasons for such an inordinate delay; and

- (d) the time by which the information is proposed to be laid on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. Some importers of Delhi have imported Rough Ophthalmic Blanks in container load.

(b) Two cases of import of ROB in Delhi and one case of Mumbai have been noticed, where under valuation was suspected. The case of M/s Enterprises Trading Co., New Delhi has been adjudicated after issue of Show Cause Notice and no under-valuation has been established by the adjudicating officer. In the case of M/s Indian optics Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi a Show Cause Notice has been issued on 13.05.97 and it is pending adjudication. The case of M/s. Ajay International, New Delhi, where the goods were imported through Mumbai port is under investigation.

- (c) and (d) In view of reply to (b) above, does not arise.

Bank Loan for Farmers

2838. DR. G.R. SARODE:

DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI:

SHRI SOHAN VEER SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of loan advanced to the farmers in the country by public and private sector banks for setting-up tubewells/tractors and cattle purchasing, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government have received any complaints about the irregularities in sanctioning loans to the farmers by these banks; and
- (c) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The data reporting system of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generate information in the manner asked for. However, Union Territory/State-wise data relating to loans (outstandings) to farmers for the purpose of Minor Irrigation and for purchase of tractors and other agricultural implements by public sector and private sector banks for the year ending June, 1995 (latest available) is given in the attached Statement-I and II respectively.

- (b) and (c) Complaints against banks regarding irregularities in the grant of financial assistance, as and when received, are taken up with concerned banks for remedial measures.